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10 April 1961

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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Congo: Hammarskjold (b)(1)
feels Tshombé's military operations in northern (b)(1)
Katanga--which have already resulted in the capture of Manono and Kabalo--foreshadow intensified civil war in Katanga Province unless the UN can promptly establish its authority in the area. if Tshombé's offensive does not stop soon, (b)(1)
his forces will have to be "neutralized." Hammarskjold has requested that approximately 1,200 Indian troops be airlifted from Dar es Salaam to Kamina within the next few days; their arrival could provoke violent incidents by Tshombé's supporters in Elisabethville. Although military talks between Mobutu and Stanleyville General Lundula are apparently proceeding as scheduled, the political conference between Gizenga and representatives of the Leopoldville government, scheduled to begin on 9 April, has been postponed. The Leopoldville emissaries apparently feared for their safety, and now have suggested that the conference be held in neutral territory, possibly Addis Ababa. (b)(3)

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Situation in the Congo

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Tshombé's recent military moves in northern Katanga were made to undercut his rival, Jason Sendwe, and to increase his own prestige so that he could dominate a conference of Congolese leaders apparently to take place in late April in Katanga. The danger of spreading the civil war in Katanga arises from Sendwe's announcement in Leopoldville on 7 April proclaiming himself chief of the Luluaba state and calling on its people to resist Tshombé's invaders.

Kabalo was reported calm on 9 April, with UN troops holding the railway station and airport. However, there have been clashes between UN Ethiopian troops and Tshombé's forces which have resulted in casualties on both sides, and further violence could occur at any time.

Elsewhere in Katanga, Tshombé's government is removing restrictive measures against UN troops, but gradually so as not to lose face with the public. UN troops on 8 April had water and electricity in all installations, but food supplies were still low. The UN commander in southern Katanga stated on 8 April that continuation of the relatively relaxed attitude depends on events at Kabalo, reaction to the airlift of Indian troops to Kamina, and the ability of the Swedish and Irish UN forces to maintain order in Elisabethville.

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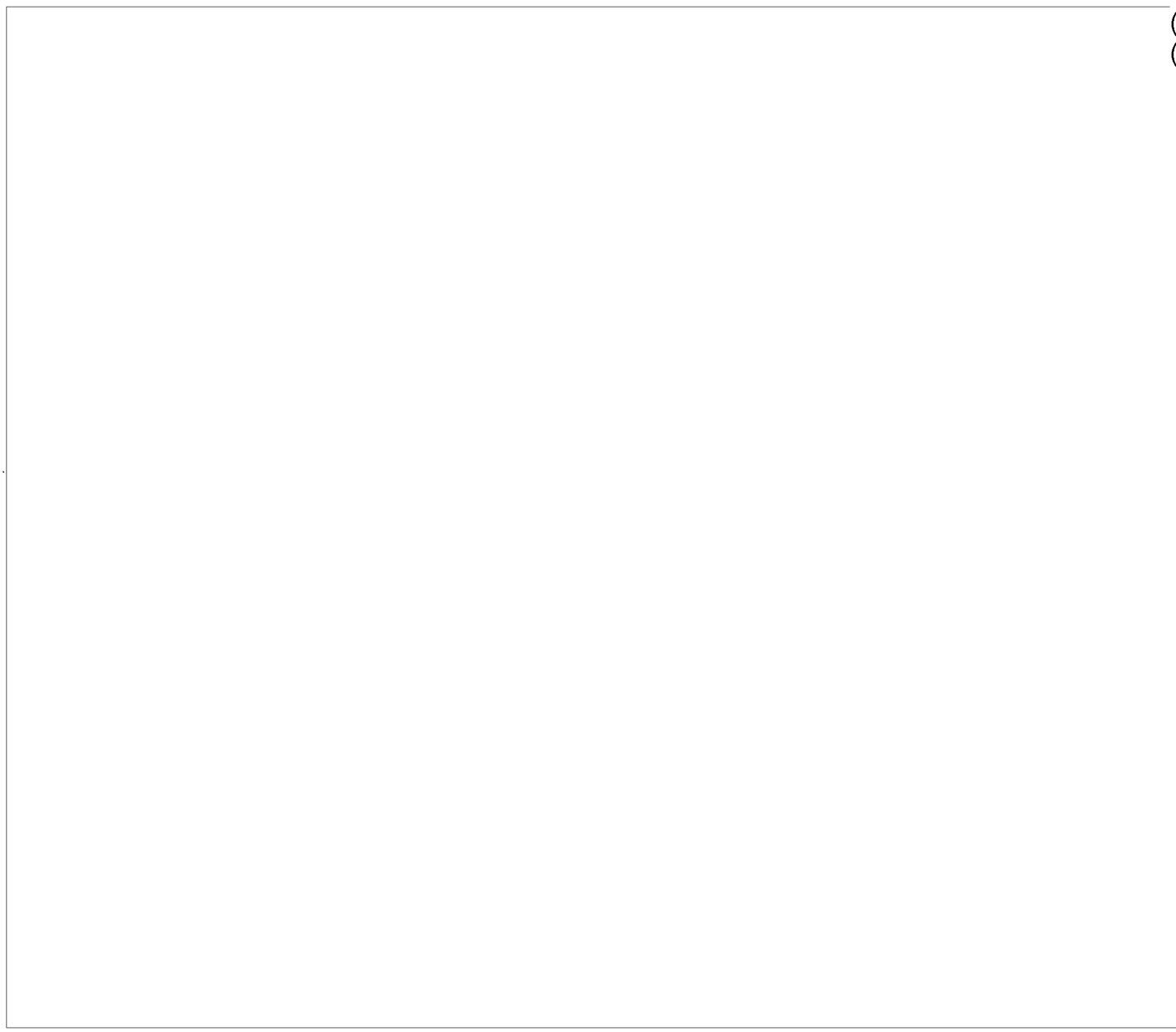

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